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March 20, 2002      LB 1310

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, what mine referred to was all the provisions of my amendment because I'm amending my amendment.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Your amendment said strike all of Section 7.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: No, no. I'm amending LB 917 (sic--FA917). Well, I'll wait till it comes on again, then I can tell you, but the thing I'm referring to striking all of...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...is the language of my amendment.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Beutler. Senator Beutler

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Kristensen, members of the Legislature, I appreciate what Senator Chambers is saying and, in light of the legislative record, I'm not sure that it would make a whole lot of difference one way or another if we took the word "only" out. But I think that what I wanted to point out is that what we are doing over time in bits and pieces is actually restructuring a great many of these cash fund statutes so that they are, in fact, more honest, and I wish Senator Chambers could hear this. But back in the middle eighties, when we had a similar crisis, not quite as bad as this one, or at least not as long lasting, Senator Warner did, in part, the same thing that we did. He swept the cash funds. That is, he went...he had staff go through all the cash funds and wherever there was an excess built up or money that could be temporarily used, in order to avoid damaging institutions or raising taxes, at least to the extent that that money could be helpful, he used it. But it became...it was difficult to use it because so many of the statutes bound up the money, and so you had to have a lot of statutory changes. It was simply not easy to use in the moment of financial crisis. So, since then, what we done I think fairly consistently over time is to put provisions into bills that allow for the transfer to the General Fund in emergency situations. And I think that makes a lot of sense and I think that that...the effect of that over time is to make the statutes more honest because we are saying to folks, in a moment of